EXCISE

6263

1887

GUYANA TASK FORCE

Report #4

December 14, 1978

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY John Simms DATE 3-17-81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

1. Arrestees [redacted] E.O.

2. Survivors - It was reported Georgetown (4258) of 12/13/78 that any person now being detained would be free to leave Guyana as soon as they gave testimony at the preliminary inquiry. The hearing was postponed until 12/14 and should be completed by 12/22.

3. Property and Federal Benefits - Susie Tucker and Frank Hall should be meeting shortly with Terry Fortune (L) who just returned from Georgetown.

4. Identified Bodies - As of COB yesterday 617 bodies had been identified.

5. Notification of next-of-kin - We have contacted persons regarding 515 deceased individuals.

6. Released Bodies - Yesterday 44 bodies were released. Total to date 72.

7. Unclaimed Bodies - The total number of bodies not to be claimed is now 34. However, one additional cable covering 9 bodies has requested that the Government pay for cremation in Delaware and then pay to ship the remains to California.

8. List of Identified - The Guyana Branch is still compiling

the list for release to the press. Hopefully, the list will be completed Friday afternoon.

9. Mayor's Task Force - The list of unidentified children under the age of sixteen (16) has been prepared and is being typed to forward to California.

10. Report from Dover AFB - Messrs. White and Dozier had tentatively scheduled a meeting on Friday to discuss cremation and/or burial in Delaware. Mr. Edward Kafader, Ass't Attorney General in Delaware and Dr. Patricia Schramm, Secretary of Health in Delaware were supposed to attend. However, on December 13, the Governor of Delaware sent a telegram to President Carter which requested that all the remaining bodies be shipped to California.

Copy of cable attached.

JONESTOWN

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE
Dec. 13, 1978

GOVERNOR ASKS REMOVAL OF BODIES TO CALIFORNIA

Governor du Pont has sent the following telegram to President Carter today requesting the removal of bodies from Dover Air Force Base to California. The text is as follows:

"In reference to 900 deceased Jonestown victims now awaiting disposition at Dover Air Force Base, I request your assistance in ma U. S. military aircraft available to remove all victims to California, the site of most victims' families and of the religious cult responsible for the appropriate disposition of its deceased members.

"This request is made in conjunction with the efforts of Congresswoman Yvonne Burke of California, and on behalf of the many families who wish, but cannot afford, to have their deceased relatives returned to them for burial.

"Delaware is prepared to expedite and assist in the release of all the deceased from the State for air transport to California.

"I would urge the fastest possible action in the return of the victims to California, and we are prepared to assist you in any way possible."

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